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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Six Winners of the 3rd Annual Nationwide Bill of Rights—First Amendment Cartoon Contest Recognized Today on Law Day**

*Honorable mentions presented to 30 students*

SAN FRANCISCO—The Administrative Office of the Courts, in partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the California State PTA, is pleased to announce the winners of the third annual First Amendment Cartoon Contest today. The theme of this year's contest is "Free Expression through the 'rights of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.'"

The six first-prize recipients are from California, Illinois, and North Carolina. Thirty finalists from California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, Utah, and the District of Columbia, receive honorable mention. Their artwork may be viewed at [www.courtsed.org](http://www.courtsed.org).

The First Amendment Cartoon Contest was announced on Bill of Rights Day on December 15, and was opened to elementary, middle, and high school students nationally. Criteria for judging are based on students' understanding of the First Amendment, creativity, and artistic merit. There were 1,010 submissions. To see a complete [list](#) of recipients, see below.

Organizers of the contest hope to increase student understanding of the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution as well as to help educate youth about the role of the judicial branch and their role as future jurors.

Law Day is a national day to celebrate the rule of law and its contributions to the freedoms Americans enjoy as well as the essential role informed citizens play in a democracy. To see other law-related education programs, go to [www.courts.ca.gov/programs-lawrelated.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-lawrelated.htm).

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*

## First Amendment Cartoon Art Contest Recipients 2012

### Winners

#### *First Prize*

Category	Grade Level	Student	School	
Single Panel	Elementary	Alexi	Cannon School	Charlotte, NC
Comic Strip	Elementary	Arjun	Madrona Elementary School	Thousand Oaks, CA
Single Panel	Middle School	Amanda	Miraleste Intermediate School	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Comic Strip	Middle School	Emily	Hawthorn Middle School North	Vernon Hills, IL
Single Panel	High School	Michael	Gage Park High School	Chicago, IL
Comic Strip	High School	Amanda	Bonita Vista High School	Chula Vista, CA

### Honorable Mentions

#### *Elementary: Single Panel*

Student	School	City, State
Azuzena	Varner Elementary School	Powder Springs, GA
Emalee	Neuse Charter School	Smithfield, NC
Emma	Uintah Elementary School	Salt lake City, UT
Jacob	Neuse Charter School	Smithfield, NC
Zoe	Blankner K-8 School	Orlando, FL

#### *Elementary: Comic Strip*

Student	School	City, State
Cassandra	Pine Grove Elementary School	Santa Maria, CA
Jessalyn	Pine Grove Elementary School	Santa Maria, CA
Julie	St. Albans Country Day School	Roseville, CA
Justin	Blankner K-8 School	Orlando, FL
Savannah	Pine Grove Elementary School	Santa Maria, CA

**Honorable Mentions – continued***Middle School: Single Panel*

Student	School	City, State
Jenna	Hawthorn Middle School North	Vernon Hills, IL
Kate	Stanley Middle School	Lafayette, CA
Lena	Crofton Middle School	Gambrills, MD
Nika	Mt. Hebron Middle School	Montclair, NJ
Samantha	Stanley Middle School	Lafayette, CA

*Middle School: Comic Strip*

Student	School	City, State
Andrew	Heritage Middle School	Westerville, OH
Sinead	Hawthorn Middle School North	Vernon Hills, IL
Samantha	Lake Washington Girls Middle School	Seattle, WA
Juliana	Lake Washington Girls Middle School	Seattle, WA
Hope	Stanley Middle School	Lafayette, CA

*High School: Single Panel*

Student	School	City, State
Dan	Jenison High School	Jenison, MI
Elijah	North Henderson High School	Hendersonville, NC
Ian	Reynolds High School	Troutdale, OR
Kelsey	Coastal Christian Preparatory School	Mount Pleasant, SC
Lillian	Diamond Bar High School	Diamond Bar, CA

*High School: Comic Strip*

Student	School	City, State
Allison	North Ridgeville High School	North Ridgeville, OH
Briana	North Ridgeville High School	North Ridgeville, OH
Ha Young (Helen)	John Marshall High School	Los Angeles, CA
Laurence	Maret High School	Washington, DC
Lino	Fremont Academy	Pomona, CA